compulsory use of jute in packaging in certain sectors and what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) A total amount of Rs. 150 crores has been earmarked by the financial insituations under the Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme to be utilised over a period of 5 years beginning from 1st November, 1986. Out of this an amount of Rs. 3.63 crores was disbursed to 4 jute mills upto 30th September, 1988.

(b) and (c) The All India Flat Tape Manufacturers Association have alleged in a representation made to the Government that the financial institutions are providing liberal financial assistance to the jute industry for the duty-free import of HDPE tape plant and circular looms ostensibly for the manufacture of poly jute bags. The factual position is that the financial institutions have not sanctioned any assistance for import of plastic tape lines under the Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme. However, loans are being sanctioned for installation of circular looms along with the tape lines to enable the jute mills to modernise their weaving section and to manufacture HDPE union jute bags. While the jute industry enjoys duty-free import facility for circular looms along with various other specified list of machinery items to assist it under the modernisation programme, plastic tape lines do not form part of this list.

(d) It is clarified that the definition of "Jute pacaking material" under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 means any packaging material containing not less then 75% by weight of jute.

Export of the products of Orissa based aluminium company

*289. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to export the entire production of the Orissa based National Aluminium Company during 1988-89;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this decision will lead to large scale shortage of the critical raw material; and

(c) what is the need for the Government to take this decision on the heels of the shifting of aluminium imports from the canalised to the open general licence list which itself was opposed by domestic user industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Orissa based National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) will be exporting a part of its production around 3,80,000 tonnes of surplus Alumina and about 15,000 tonnes of high grade Aluminium metal after fully meeting the statutory obligation of production of Electrical Conductor Grade Aluminium for domestic consumption during 1988-89.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Aluminium including aluminium rods were placed on OGL with effect from 26th July, 1988 with marginal level of customs duty of Rs. 500 per tonne in order to bridge any demand-supply gap. The decision to export some quantity of alumina and aluminium was taken by the Government while reviewing the balance of payments position.

Central assistance to remove exploitation of tribals by middlemen in the trade relating to minor forest produce in Madhya Pradesh

*290. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that extreme exploitation of tribals is taking place in Madhya Pradesh in regard to the trade in minor forest produce and all the profits from minor forest produce are pocketed by a few middlemen at the cost of tribals;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remove this blatant exploitation;

(c) whether the Central Government propose to provide financial support to the State Government for administrative set-up and also for building up alternative co-operative structure for removing exploitation in minor forest produce; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSAR): (a) Instances of exploitation of tribals by middlemen in Madhya Pradesh have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(b) to (d) Steps taken to remove exploitation of tribals

1. Union Government issue guidelines to States from time to time regarding increased participation of advisasis in collection and processing of minor forest produce so that their interests are protected.

2. Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) has been set up to provide marketing support to the State Tribal Development Federations in collection and marketing of minor forest produce.

3. Some States including Madhya Pradesh have taken over trade of some items of Minor Forest Produce to eliminate private traders.

4. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is providing financial assistance to the State Tribal Development Federations for the following:

   (1) Construction of buildings for fair price shops.

   (2) Construction of godowns.

   (3) Purchase of transport vehicles.

Issue of fresh licences

*291. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the present Export or Import Policy there is no provision to deny fresh licences to those who have already got licences; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to effect any change in its policy to give opportunity to others?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNHI): (a) In the Export Policy for 1988—91, issue of fresh export licences are not related to licences issued earlier. So far as import licensing is concerned, presumably, the Question refers to grant of Import Licences for items like Dry Fruits. Under the current Policy, import of Dry Fruits (excluding Cashew nut and Dates), is allowed to dealers engaged in this trade and who have been getting licences for this item earlier. The value of the licence is calculated at the rate of 25% of the cif value of best years import during 1972-73 to the preceding licensing years, subject to a minimum value of Rs. 5,000/-.

(b) So far as Export Policy is concerned, the question does not